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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,149	03/04/2002	Baokang Yang	19400/09014	5923
1095	7590	07/08/2004	EXAMINER	
NOVARTIS CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ONE HEALTH PLAZA 430/2 EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080				BECKER, DREW E
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1761		

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/091,149	YANG, BAOKANG
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Drew E Becker	1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/13/02, 3/31/03</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

TAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-24 in the reply filed on June 14, 2004 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 1-24 recite "up to about X wt %". It is not clear whether the component is optional, or not, since 0% would satisfy the limitation. Also, it is not clear what amount could be considered, for instance, "about 10 wt %". 11%? 15%?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-9, 11-20, and 22-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liebrecht et al [Pat. No. 6,106,874].

Liebrecht et al teach a beverage comprising up to 4% whey protein isolate (column 4, line 54), a carbohydrate content of 15-40% (column 10, line 35), about 2% edible acid (column 4, line 55), 5-95% fruit juice (column 4, line 40), the beverage being clear (column 8, line 49), a pH of 4.0 or less (column 8, line 25), a viscosity of less than 15 cp (column 9, line 30), carbohydrates such as a blend of sucrose, fructose, and maltodextrin (column 8, line 12), acids such as a blend of malic, citric, and phosphoric (column 8, line 27), at least 33% the recommended daily intake of calcium (column 9, line 1), vitamins such as folic acid (column 8, line 56), less than 5% arabinogalactan (column 9, line 36), less than 0.1% pectin (column 9, line 36), and the ratios of ingredients being varied within the overall range (column 10, line 21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebrecht et al as applied above, in view of GB 2335134A.
Liebrecht et al teach the above mentioned components. Liebrecht et al do not recite the use of whey protein hydrolysate. GB 2335134A teaches the use of whey protein hydrolysate in a beverage (page 3, lines 17-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the whey protein hydrolysate of GB 2335134A into

the invention of Liebrecht et al since both are directed to beverage compositions, since Liebrecht et al already included whey protein isolate (column 4, line 55), and since GB 2335134A teaches that whey protein hydrolysate had the advantage of being more easily digested (page 3, line 22).

9. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebrecht et al as applied above, in view of JP 404311378A. Liebrecht et al teach the above mentioned components. Liebrecht et al do not recite about 0.5-4% inulin. JP 404311378A teaches a fruit juice beverage comprising 1-30% of a type of inulin (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the inulin of JP 404311378A into the invention of Liebrecht et al since both are directed to beverage compositions, since Liebrecht et al already included supplemental carbohydrates (column 7, line 59), and since the inulin of JP 404311378A would have provided an added source of fiber (abstract).

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bangert [Pat. No. 3,949,098], Borschel et al [Pat. No. 6,365,218], DeWille et al [Pat. No. 6,475,539], Borschel et al [Pat. No. 6,589,576], Fuchs et al [Pat. No. 6,592,863], Young et al [Pat. No. 6,652,896], Mehansho et al [Pat. No. 6,706,295], and MacDonald [Pat. No. 6,706,697] teach beverage compositions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Drew E Becker whose telephone number is 571-272-

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1396. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. 8am-5pm and every other Fri. 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Drew Becker
Drew E Becker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761

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